

## **“WHERE IS MY VOICE In The Election of Democratic Party Leaders In New Mexico?”**

The Federation of Democratic Women of Dona Ana County present “Conversations With Democrats” with **a panel of the three announced candidates for the State Chair of the Democratic Party of New Mexico (DPNM), with Merrie Lee Soules as Moderator.**

Saturday, January 28  
at 2 pm

Holy Family American National Catholic Church  
702 Parker Road, Las Cruces

The Federation of Democratic Women of Dona Ana County present “Conversations With Democrats” on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month. We invite a qualified guest to speak on a subject of current political interest, then facilitate a group conversation.

Our “Conversation” this month is a slightly different format. We will have a panel of guests who are the current Candidates in the upcoming election of the State Chair of the DPNM. They are Richard Ellenberg, Rusty Pearce, and Juan Sanchez\*\*. The discussion will include information about how every registered Democrat in New Mexico can play a role in the election of our State Party leaders, from the Precinct, District, and County levels to the State level. Each of you can be represented in this election process. The discussion will also include time for questions from the audience to the Candidates.

What seems like something you just read about in the newspaper that doesn't pertain to you, is really a chain of elections that you indeed have a role in. Your voice in these elections is important and we need all our Democrats coming out to vote at the upcoming District Meetings to impact every following stage of elections on up to the State level. [Each of you are important in this process!](#)

**Juan Sanchez** (Juan DeJesus Sanchez III) is a 12<sup>th</sup> generation New Mexican who graduated from Belen High School and earned a Bachelor's Degree from New Mexico Highlands. He has worked in the solar industry and is currently completing a Master's Degree in Water Resources at UNM. He has served as the Vice Chair of the DPNM since April of 2015 (the youngest in New Mexico history), and serves on the Board of Directors of the Envision Fund (education on LGBTQ issues). Juan's passion for political activism began when he was five years old, picketing and knocking on doors for Democratic candidates with his step-father.

**Rusty Pearce** is a proud millennial who began his record of service and outreach as a community volunteer at fourteen years old. He lives and works in Las Cruces as an Instructional Technologist, helping teachers and students utilize technology to improve the education system and equip students with needed skills. He has worked with local progressive groups, and was a pledged delegate for Bernie Sanders at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia. He is a member of the LGBTQ community and has volunteered with HIV/AIDS awareness groups and food banks.

**Richard Ellenberg** is a long-time resident of Santa Fe and was a licensed Attorney there for 45 years. He earned his Bachelor's degree at Brown University, and his Juris Doctor degree at Harvard University. He has also been a long time activist for the Democratic Party in NM,

and was the Chair of the Democratic Party of Santa Fe County for six years. His experience and accomplishments in this position parallel the duties of a State Chair.

Please join us and discover where you fit in this rather elusive process. Your help is needed in shaping the future of New Mexico. Thank you.

Coffee, bottled water, cookies and vegetable snacks will be available.

\*\*\*\*ALL ARE WELCOME AND PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BRING A FRIEND!\*\*\*\*

This is an important Forum and a great opportunity to learn more about the intricacies of the political process at a time when our country needs all of it's citizens to care, participate and stand up. New Mexico can show the way!

\*\*Copies of the full biographies will be available at the sign-in table when you come in.